

BUCKHANNON'S CUP OF JOY IS RUNNING OVER TODAY

BEST TEAM WINNER OF BIG GAMES

Buckhannon Entitled to Victory—Fairview Gets Much Glory

Way up in Upshur county in the town of Buckhannon, there is great joy today, because Coach Ross, "Pop" Flanagan's boys, H. and F. and their helpers Stanley, Evans, Swisher, Rohrbach, Fairview, etc., are back among the natives of Buckhannon after a short journey to the heart of civilization—not only safely back and sound to the familiar wildwood but bringing with them a loving cup, gold basketball, a silk shirt and the championship of the Monongahela Valley high school basketball tournament. In other words late Saturday night Fairview and Buckhannon high schools came together on the Normal floor in the final of the tournament and after 30 minutes of play it was found that the Bocos had rolled up 27 points against 23 by Fairview, and 23 being an unlucky number as compared to 27 under the existing conditions, Buckhannon was declared to have defeated Boyer's men and allowed to wear the victor's laurels.

Through very unusual luck in the drawing, Buckhannon had very easy sailing all through the tournament, playing but one major team outside of the final of the tournament being Grafton, which was vanquished after giving much trouble in the first half. Fairview on the other hand had two major games to play before the final, meeting and beating Grafton and Fairmont. But despite this fact we believe that the majority of the unbiased fans who witnessed the tournament games will agree with us when we say the best team won. Fairview has a cracking good aggregation. The writer has praised them on many occasions during the season and holds them among the best in the state, but Buckhannon has a shade on Boyer's men and this fact can not be denied, and there can be no alibi for Fairview's defeat in the final game. Had Buckhannon drawn Fairview's card for the tournament, and Fairview drawn Buckhannon's the ultimate result would have been the same, although the score might have been closer in the final game by six or eight points.

Buckhannon's team has weight, endurance, speed and experience. This is a combination that is hard to beat. True, Buckhannon looked fearful, raw in the first half of the game with the midgame from Blacksburg in the Saturday afternoon game, but that game was simply a very forceful illustration of a condition that goes up and down in all lines of sport when a team that is far superior to the opposition has a hard time getting started—and at times fails to get started at all, going down to defeat. We venture the assertion that should Buckhannon and Fairview come together in a series of seven games on any neutral floor such as the Normal that Buckhannon would take at least four out of the seven, allowing a day of rest between battles. Of course no such series will ever be arranged. There is yet one more chance for Fairview to prove she is superior to Buckhannon and get revenge for the defeat Saturday night. Both teams are entered in the state tournament at Buckhannon and if they happen to come together there is sure to be a battle royal. The writer hopes Fairview will be able to land this contest, if it so happens the two teams meet again.

While Fairview lost the championship, and no doubt it was a sad blow to the hopes of these sturdy lads and their loyal friends, there is much honor and glory for them in the runner up position. They fought a good fight and stuck to the finish, and lost only because Buckhannon high had just a shade the better of them for all around basketball and caught them when they were off form through physical exhaustion, thereby running up a higher score than they would otherwise have done. Fairview is the undisputed champion floor team of Marion county, having knocked off Fairmont no less than three times during the present season.

One of the two teams engaged had to drop the final battle, and Fairview drew the black pill.

Three and Two

Golly, just think of it, if the goat stand stuff proves a success we may have Dave Altizer and Nick Altrock back in the big league line-up.

Some of the gossip which has been manufactured around the stove league circuit has annoyed Walter Reuther, star southpaw of the Reds. He says that he will be on deck at Miami, Fla., like a good boy.

There have been rumors around town that I was dying of consumption; that I would never pitch any more, and that I was entirely out of condition. I can't imagine where such things start. I am in fine shape and am only anxious to get down to work again. I look for another big year under Manager Moran, who was a great help to me last year, as was Slim Salter, who is a wise old bird, and gave me much valuable advice. It is my ambition to lead the team and the league for a second time, and I will do so if I had work counts for anything. If the team is not handicapped by injuries or bad breaks I see no reason why we should not repeat this year and take another crack at the American League champions. I be-

Some Local Sport Chatter

Successful in every way, the first annual Monongahela Valley high school basketball tournament was a great thing for all concerned, and it is with pleasure that we receive the announcement that a like event will be staged at approximately the same time next year. Much credit is due Homer C. Toothman, who carried the burden of handling and getting up the tournament. He made good on the job from the start. Resident Joseph Rosier also is to be commended for his co-operation in the proposition, which was a new thing and a gamble as to whether or not it could be staged successfully. All those who assisted in any way to make the tournament a success deserve hearty thanks. The tournament was a great thing for the basketball sport itself in this section; it was a happy event for the lovers of basketball; it was a good thing for the city of Fairmont and a splendid advertisement for the Fairmont State Normal school. The entire program was carried out in a manner bespeaking forethought on the part of those in charge and with a smoothness that was highly satisfactory. We are sure that the public will support the tournament next year to an even greater extent than this year, although capacity houses prevailed at the big seasons of the tournament just closed.

As a referee "Free" Davis is out there as they say. So far as we could notice there was not a single objection to one of "Free's" rulings during the entire tournament. When a fellow can satisfy 20 teams all fighting for a place in the sun, he must be a top notcher.

It would be unfair to pass up the tournament without some few words of commendation for Jasper Colebank's Clark five. With their star man, Clark, out of the game on account of injuries, they fought against Fairview and Buckhannon, giving these teams an awful run for their money. Not only was Clark out of the game, but two or three of the men in the lineup were not in fit physical condition to do themselves justice. The Grafton leads deserve much praise for the pluck they displayed.

This little lad named Miller, who played on the Blacksburg team, sure was some great fellow for his size. He had the big Buckhannon boys worried to death in the first half of the game Saturday afternoon. Miller was injured early in the second half and had all the pep taken out of him. At the time Miller was injured, Referee Davis came over to the timekeepers and announced that time was taken out because the Blacksburg team was injured. And his statement was more truth than poetry.

The Fairview lads were a little sore after the final game on account of the fact that Fairmont high rooters pulled for Buckhannon and presented Buckhannon with a horseshoe before the game started. Perhaps it was a little poor sportsmanship, but then Fairview was guilty of a bad break after the game for not being on hand to receive the silver basketballs, beating it for the dressing room when the game was over. However all these little things are merely a matter of taste, as the old lady said when she kissed the cow. A fellow will do lots of things in the exciting situations provoked by basketball tournament that he would not do under normal conditions.

We were in hopes Pierre Hill would win the silk shirt prize. We figured he would look quite some guy arrayed in all the glory of the shirt of

leave the results will be the same as it was last fall.

The Major Leagues have adopted stringent regulations against the use of all "freak" pitching deliveries, but even so, it is likely that the bewildering batter will so full many a "sailor" this season and in all the seasons to come. Despite every precaution on the part of the manufacturers, a certain percentage of all the baseballs furnished to the major leagues are slightly defective and because the centre of gravity does not coincide with the centre of the sphere itself such balls are liable to out all sorts of peculiar capers when pitched. Distinguishing these imperfect balls from those which are "tampered" with is going to keep the jolly old umpires busy at all times.

Boston Fanatics and newspaper observers seem to be all steamed up over Harry Frazee's failure to scatter broadcast the \$125,000—or was it \$137,500—received for Babe Ruth. One scribe figures that the Red Sox have received approximately \$195,000 through the sale of Ruth, Carl Mays, Duffy Lewis, Ernie Shore, Duth Leonard and Sam Agnew and spent in the neighborhood of \$25,000 in acquiring Joe Bush, Wally Schang, Stuffy McInnis, Amos Strunk, Bill Lamar and Walte Hoyt, and wants to know when Frazee is going to expend on new players the \$137,500 which represents the difference between these sums.

The International League moguls met and announced they would be no increase in admission prices. They increased 'em last year and they didn't have the nerve to tack on another boost.

Connie Mack may be last in the American League, but he is the first in spring training. His athletes were off to almost a week's start on the other clubs. The early bird catches the worm, but the dawn worm lives in the cellar.

Bush league stars we have been reading about all winter are already on their way back to the minors. The exodus will continue until the middle of May and a few stragglers will be accepting return tickets even at later dates.

Harry Frazee's efforts to secure new players have thus far yielded scant

fered as a prize. However, he grabbed off enough things as it was.

Just now we have no desire to pick any all-tournament teams. It is a thankless task at best, because unless every player gets on some where there is bound to be a wide difference of opinion. We will stick by any decision Harry Stansbury wants to make after the big Buckhannon event as to the best players in the state and let it go at that, with one proviso, Pierre Hill and H. Flanagan must have recognition unless they break a leg between now and the big games. And if Harry can't see them both, we insist on Hill.

Our old friend "Colonel Joe" Shively when interviewed quickly out in the cold atmosphere this morning stated: "This is not for publication but you may say for me in your paper that a curious and cruel combination of circumstances conspired to create conditions against which our noble lads from Grafton high could not compete successfully in the basketball tournament." The Colonel as usual, is absolutely right in the matter.

It was almost like getting in the ticket line for a world's series game when one tried to approach the counter of cals at Normal domestic science department Saturday evening. "Free" Davis was right ahead of us and grabbed off the very last plate of beans. Next time we are going to be at the head of the line instead of the foot.

Coach Ross, of Buckhannon, was greatly pleased with the showing made by his men, and expects to give all comers a hard run for their money in the state contests.

Belington was nearly all right according to the box score. Among those present in the lineup were B. Right, H. Right and F. Right.

The illness of Jarvis and his inability to take part in the games on Saturday was a sad blow to the hopes of the Fairview lads.

All sorts of billiard stars will be with us this week. George E. Spears will give an exhibition at the Manley parlors Wednesday, while Miss Frances Anderson, woman expert, will meet the local cue stars at Pickett's parlors this evening.

The Traction company had a busy session on Saturday taking care of all the fans in and out of town who attended the basketball games. Good service was rendered.

H. Flanagan was going so fast in the games before the final that he wore out two pairs of shoes. He called time out twice to change shoes.

The tumult and the shouting dies. The captains and the teams depart; Still stands that ancient sacrifice, Pete Hamilton, official rubber.

Fairmont high makes a trip to Weston tomorrow, the last trip of the season outside of the one to Buckhannon for the tournament.

Buckhannon high will not likely be seen in action here again this year. It was hoped they would play Fairmont here some day this week, but Coach Ross does not want to make another long trip before the big games. Fairview made Buckhannon an attractive offer to play a game on the Fairview floor which Ross refused. In this he was perfectly right as Buckhannon would have nothing to gain in winning at Fairview and much to lose in case of defeat.

The Red Sox leader is especially keen on gaining title to a particular out fielder, but cannot see his way clear to paying the price demanded by the present owners of said gardener. He is more than willing to deliver the cash consideration, but balks at relinquishing the pitcher sought by the parties of the second part.

BOB'S HAND IN CAST.

Aspiring heavyweights can have another month's peace of mind since it has been necessary to put Bob Martin's hand in a plaster cast in which it will remain for three weeks or possibly a month.

NEW PILOT IS BUSY.

Jim Barton, who succeeded Eddie Hooper as pilot of the Portsmouth, Va., a baseball club, is singing up some good talent. He has booked exhibition games with Syracuse of the International League for April 15, 16, and 17.

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